Name of the event: An Introduction to Postcolonial Theory

Category: Extension Lecture

Organizing Unit: Department of English

Date: 28.02.2024 & 01.03.2024

Time: 12:30 pm

Venue: AV Room

Resource Person: Dr. Madhuchhanda Mitra, Professor at St. John's University, Minnesota, USA

Brief Description of the Event – The Department of English organised an extension lecture in two parts for the undergraduate students of semesters IV and VI on 28th February and 1st of March, 2024.

The lecture began with introducing the term "Postcolonialism" followed by a brief discussion of the history of European colonisation. The lecture explored Karl Marx's theory of colonialism and the critical perspectives of two eminent figures of the Negritude movement Aimé Césaire and Frantz Fanon. The lecture also included a thorough elucidation of some of the significant theoretical terms, such as — Imperialism/Empire, Decolonization, Anti-colonialism and Neocolonialism.

On the second day of the lecture, some excerpts from the Introduction of *Orientalism* by Edward Said were shared to explain to the students the power of language and the differences between the imaginary East and West. The lecture also focused on some of the distinguished theorists and their critical works such as Gramsci and Althusser and their different critical concepts of hegemony. The lecture concluded with a brief reference to Gayatri Chakravarty Spivak's essay on "Can the Subaltern Speak?" and a brief discussion on Bhabha's mimicry.

Outcome: The lecture has been productive since the students participated actively after the lecture regarding their queries. It would immensely help them to prepare particular sections of their curriculum for their upcoming exams.





